

NSC BRIEFING

30 November 1960

CONGO

- I. Lumumba's escape from Leopoldville--presumably towards Stanleyville in Orientale Province--planned since early November.

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- B. Unconfirmed press reports suggest Lumumba is moving overland to Stanleyville.

- II. Orientale Province controlled by Lumumba forces since mid-October, despite some opposition from army elements loyal to Mobutu.

- A. Lumumba, describing situation Orientale, recently observed that "liberation movement in Congo could be launched from there." Probably hopes to consolidate position there, then build up his following in other areas.

- B. Lumumba agents, the UAR, and Soviet Bloc continue active in support of this goal.

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III. On 28 November, Lumumba partisans in Stanleyville launched sweeping arrests of Europeans, including UN personnel. Most released, but many beaten. UN representative Stanleyville asked for emergency air evacuation of 1,000 Europeans on 29 November, but request dropped on 30 November with UN reporting Stanleyville "quiet."

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IV. Should Lumumba arrive safely Stanleyville, where his followers so well established, new phase of power struggle in Congo would begin.

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A. [REDACTED] Mobutu's commissioners decided 29 November to mount military operations against Lumumba forces at Stanleyville. This would be most difficult. If UN unable prevent such action, result would be civil war.

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